

Michigan Water Resources Conservation Advisory Council December 2, 2008 Meeting Summary

The Michigan Water Resources Conservation Advisory Council (WRCAC) meeting was held on Tuesday December 2, 2008, in the Gerald Ford Ballroom of the Amway Grand Hotel at 187 NW Monroe Avenue in Grand Rapids, Michigan from 10:00 am to 2:45 pm.

Council members in attendance were Jon Allan, James Clift, Michael Gregg, Jo Latimore, Mark Lemons, Peter Manning, Timothy Neumann, Scott Piggott, Frank Ruswick, Paul Seelbach, Patricia Soranno, Donna Stine, and Bob Walther. Absent members were Sumedh Bahl, Dr. Bryan Burroughs, Jon Coleman, Frank Ettawageshik, Craig Hoffman, Michael Newman, Richard Slevatz and Samuel Wendling. Guests present were Jim Cleland, Gary Dawson, Abby Eaton, Patricia Fouchey, Fred Goldberg, Dave Hamilton, Kristin Nelson, and Ken Vermeulen.

Welcome – Review of Minutes

The committee as a whole approved the Summary of the November 3 WRCAC Meeting. The meeting summary is to be posted on the web as written.

All present introduced themselves..

Scott Piggott informed the group that this week is the 89th Annual Michigan Farm Bureau Meeting. It is a week-long event. About 500 farmers come to vote on an annual policy book. Today at 2:30 a seminar on global warming will take place in the Pantlind Ballroom. Also today there will be approximately 1200 third graders from the Grand Rapids schools. The Farm Bureau will fill the DeVos Place Exhibit Hall with fun and interactive educational stations designed to teach the third-graders about agriculture. Each child will progress through a series of six stations – some featuring live farm animals.

Frank Ruswick said Senator Patricia L. Birkholz has requested a demonstration at the Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee at 1:00 pm on December 3 on the functionality of the assessment tool. Dave Hamilton, Frank Ruswick and Paul Seelbach will be attending the meeting as well as Jeremiah Asher and Howard Reeves. All members are invited.

Donna Stine mentioned that Rich Bowman (past member of the GWCAC) is briefing new state legislators about the water assessment tool, the Great Lakes Compact, the new groundwater protection legislation and Great Lakes restoration today at Michigan State University.

Report of the Capacity vs Actual Use Subcommittee

Michael Gregg said the first meeting was at the November 3 WRCAC Meeting. On November 20 the subcommittee had their 2nd meeting hosted by Farm Bureau thanks to Scott Piggott. Even though James Clift was unable to attend the meeting, he provided an outline. There was limited attendance at the meeting but it was productive. Scott Piggott took the outline and put it into text. Frank Ruswick tweaked it. The subcommittee has a draft. The draft Water Resources Conservation Advisory Council Sub-committee on Capacity and Actual Withdrawals December 2, 2008 Draft Report was distributed to all present. For the remainder of the morning the report was reviewed with questions asked and comments made. Frank Ruswick agreed to develop the next draft of the report.

James Clift reminded the council that a report is due January 9. The Council meets again on January 6.

Lunch

Lunch was provided from Noon to 1:00 thanks to the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Instream Flows for Riverine Resource Stewardship Book

At the initial WRCAC Meeting the book "Instream Flows for Riverine Resource Stewardship" was mentioned as a good resource book for those who don't currently have it. At this time only 1 member of the council wants to purchase one. (In December of 2006 GWCAC Members made purchases.) The book can be purchased from the Instream Flow Council for \$85 on their webpage <http://www.instreamflowcouncil.org>

Test and Evaluation of Assessment Tool Subcommittee Report

Paul Seelbach said the Test and Evaluation of Assessment Tool subcommittee members meet yesterday. The subcommittee reviewed the tool's maps and talked about the need to promote the workshops. The first workshop had about 35 people, targeted to agriculture, but also had a wide variety of different interests represented. Very pleased with turnout. Will have a total of 8 workshops. Mostly in the Southern Lower Peninsula where most of the users are. Counting on council members to pass the information and schedules on to their constituents. The workshops scheduled to date are: December 4 at the Montcalm Community College. December 8 in Macomb County. January 22 in Ottawa. For more information about the Introduction to Michigan's New Water Withdrawal Regulations – Workshops go to: <http://www.iwr.msu.edu>. The subcommittee also has developed a standardized questionnaire for feedback. Finally the subcommittee talked about working with IWR to analyze the data collected during the workshops.

In addition Dave Hamilton reviewed the subcommittees' discussion of plans to test the Tool using several hundred recent applications as test cases.

Limnology 101

Dr. Pat Soranno gave a PowerPoint presentation on basic limnology. Some of the questions answered by the PowerPoint were: What makes a lake a lake? What's the difference between a pond and a lake? Can a lake be a wetland? How many lakes are in Michigan? What is bathymetry? Is a dammed area considered a lake? How are manmade lakes and natural lakes different? What are the cycles of lakes? Dr. Soranno also emphasized that two lake attributes likely to be sensitive to water withdrawals are percent littoral zone and water residence time.

New items & comment

February 6, 2009, Meeting Location – James Clift will look into getting a meeting location in the Mt. Pleasant area.

The proposed July and September meeting dates fall around holidays. They will be on the second Friday. The meeting dates for 2009 are: January 6, February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 10, August 7, September 11, October 2, November 6, and December 4, 2009. Be sure to check www.michigan.gov/wrcac for meeting date changes / maps and agendas.

Next Meeting

The January 6, 2009, Meeting will be in the Ballroom of the University Club at 3435 Forest Road in Lansing Michigan from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM hosted by Mike Newman.